SCHOOL SUMMARY

OVERVIEW:

The School of Aviation Safety's mission is to educate aviation officers at all levels to identify and eliminate hazards, to manage safety information, to investigate and report mishaps, and to develop and administer command safety programs. The School of Aviation Safety conducts safety related research and provides assistance in support of the Naval Aviation Safety Program. The combined teaching, research, and service is dedicated to enhancing combat readiness through preservation of assets, both human and material.

CURRICULA SERVED:

- Aviation Safety Officer (ASO) Course: A 21-day course designed to prepare Aviation Safety Officers to assist commanders and commanding officers in administering unit safety and mishap prevention programs.
- Aviation Safety Command (ASC) Course: A six-day course designed to indoctrinate aviation squadron commanding officers, officers screened for command, and major aviation staff officers in the policies, philosophy, and techniques of an effective command safety program.

RESEARCH THRUSTS:

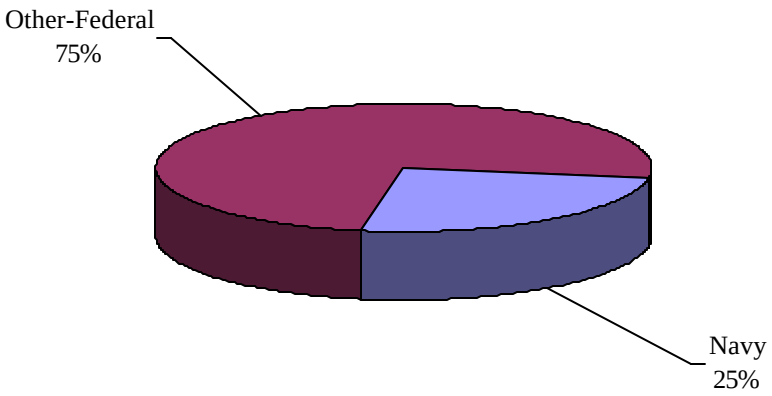
- Human Factors of Air Safety: An area of research dealing with the underlying causes of human error in aviation mishaps, including individual, team and organizational factors that may contribute to the chain of events leading to an aircraft mishap. Researchers at the School of Aviation Safety have developed a Human Factors Checklist that defines specific human performance factors commonly associated with aircraft mishaps.

- Command Climate Assessment Surveys: The School of Aviation Safety has been a leader in the development and application of web-based surveys used to assess Command Climate. Two survey applications have been developed, and are in use today by U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps units. The Command Safety Assessment (CSA) survey system is used to assess command climate, the perceived effectiveness of a commands safety program, and other factors related to the safety of flight operations. The Maintenance Climate Assessment Survey (MCAS) was developed to address similar command issues in the maintenance community. MCAS also measures command climate and other factors, but with respect to maintenance operations. CSA/MCAS are designed specifically for the aviation application. A derivative of the on-line MCAS process focusing specifically on Naval Aviation Depot (NADEP) issues has also been developed and implemented. Recently, the School of Aviation researchers have begun to develop and apply the same command climate assessment methods to USMC Ground Forces, and have begun migrating these survey methods in support of the NASA manned space program.

- Organizational Risk Factors: An area of research dealing with the potential influence of leadership, organizational structure, safety climate, and safety culture, on mishap causation. Researchers at the School of Aviation Safety are working in collaboration with social scientists from Haas Business School, UC Berkeley, Stanford University, Carnegie-Mellon, University of Arizona, and NASA-Ames Research Center to develop and validate Organizational Risk Models. This research is closely allied to the ongoing development and application of the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps Command Climate Assessment Surveys.

RESEARCH PROGRAM (Research and Academic)-FY2001:

The Naval Postgraduate School's sponsored program exceeded $49 million in FY2001. Sponsored programs included both research and educational activities funded from an external source. A profile of the sponsored program for the School of Aviation Safety is provided below:



Size of Program: $232K